

R E M A R K S

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

THE SPECIFICATION

The Examiner has required that the specification be amended to update the status of all parent priority applications. It is respectfully pointed out that the present application does not claim the benefit of any U.S. or international application under 35 USC 120, 35 USC 121 or 35 USC 365(c). Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the requirement to "update" the specification be withdrawn.

THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-27 have been canceled, and new claims 28-47 have been added to more clearly and positively recite the features of the present invention in better U.S. form.

No new matter has been added, and it is respectfully requested that the amendments to the claims be approved and entered.

It is respectfully submitted, moreover, that new claims 28-47 are in full compliance with the requirements of 35 USC 112, and it is respectfully requested that the rejection thereunder be withdrawn.

THE PRIOR ART REJECTION

Claims 1-27 were rejected under 35 USC 102 or under 35 USC 103 as being anticipated by or obvious in view of "WORDNET, AN ELECTRONIC LEXICAL DATABASE" ("WordNet"). This rejection, however, is respectfully traversed with respect to new claims 28-47 set forth hereinabove.

According to the present invention as recited in new independent claim 28, the information displaying apparatus comprises a headword display control unit for displaying headwords found by a headword searching unit in list form within a first display area of a display device and for displaying, at portions corresponding to the respective found headwords, respective portions of the explanations of the word meanings of each of the found headwords in list form within a second display area of the display device. Each of the portions of the explanations have a predetermined number of characters derived from a beginning of the explanation, and the predetermined number of characters is determined such that each of the portions is of a size that can be displayed within the second display area of the display device. According to claim 28, moreover, a headword designating unit is provided for designating one of the headwords displayed in the first display area of the display device by the headword display control unit.

In addition, according to the present invention as recited in new independent claim 28, the information displaying apparatus comprises an explanation display control unit for: (i) when a headword is designated by the headword designating unit, deriving a predetermined number of characters from a beginning of the explanation of each of the word meanings of the designated headword, wherein the predetermined number of characters are determined such that the predetermined number of characters can be displayed within the second display area of the display device, (ii) displaying the predetermined number of characters of the explanations of word meanings of the designated headword in list form within the second display area of the display device, in place of a range of the explanations of the word meanings of the found headwords displayed in the second display area of the display device by the headword display control unit, and (iii) displaying a frame corresponding to the designated headword so as to surround the designated headword and the predetermined number of characters of each of the explanations of the word meanings of the designated headword.

Independent claim 38, moreover, recites a computer readable recording medium storing a computer program that is executable by a computer to cause the computer to function as units of an information display apparatus in a manner similar to claim 28.

With this structure, the information display apparatus of claim 28 (and the information display apparatus controlled by a computer executing a computer program as recited in claim 38) has a prominent advantage in that the retrieved headwords and explanations of word meanings of the searched headwords are displayed such that a user is allowed to see at a glance the relationship between the headword and its explanation, and even though a portion of each explanation is displayed, the portion includes a predetermined number of characters derived from the beginning of the explanation to an extent such that the predetermined number of characters can be displayed in the second display area of the display device, whereby a list of portions of explanations are displayed in a user-friendly manner.

By contrast, it is respectfully submitted that WordNet merely discloses searching for one word through a data base which defines a relationship between words, and displaying the searched word and words associated with the searched word.

It is respectfully submitted that WordNet does not disclose, teach or suggest any structure corresponding to the headword display control unit and the explanation display control unit recited in new independent claims 28 and 38. In addition, it is respectfully submitted that WordNet does not disclose, teach or suggest an information storage which stores a plurality of

headwords, each having plural word meanings, and explanations of the plural word meanings of each headword.

New independent claim 39, moreover, recites an information displaying apparatus comprising a display device, an information storage which stores a plurality of headwords, each having plural word meanings, and explanations of plural word meanings of each headword, and a search-character input unit for entering a word series including a plurality of words. According to new claim 39, a keyword determining unit selects one of a verb, an adjective, and a noun from the word series and determining the selected word as a keyword, and a first headword searching unit searches for the keyword among the headwords stored in the information storage to find at least one headword corresponding to the keyword. An explanation judging unit judges whether or not the word series is included in at least one of the explanations of the headword found by the first headword searching unit. And the information displaying apparatus according to new claim 39 comprises a searched-information display unit for, when the explanation judging unit determines that the word series is included in at least one of the explanations of the at least one headword found by the first headword searching unit, displaying the explanation on the display device as including the word series together with the corresponding headword.

New independent claim 47, moreover, recites a computer readable recording medium storing a computer program that is executable by a computer to cause the computer to function as units of an information display apparatus in a manner similar to new claim 39.

With the structure of the present invention recited in new independent claim 39 (and the computer program as recited in new independent claim 47), a verb, adjective, or noun included in plural entered words is automatically determined as a keyword, and this keyword is searched for. An explanation(s) of the headword(s) corresponding to the searched-for keyword that includes the plural entered words is displayed. Therefore, the user is not required to select a word from the entered words to determine the keyword to be searched for.

It is respectfully submitted that WordNet does not disclose, teach or suggest these features of the present invention recited in new independent claims 39 and 47.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that new independent claims 28, 38, 39 and 47, as well as each of new claims 29-37 and 40-46 respectively depending therefrom, all clearly patentably distinguish over WordNet, taken singly or in combination, under 35 USC 102 as well as under 35 USC 103.

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Entry of this Amendment, allowance of the claims and the passing of this application to issue are respectfully solicited.

If the Examiner has any comments, questions, objections or recommendations, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned for prompt action.

Respectfully submitted,

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